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Carter Criticizes Kelley, Disavows Memo About Bush

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PLAINS, Ga., Aug. 13—Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter said today he believes FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley "has not gotten adequate control over his organization." At the same time, he disavowed a Carter campaign memo charging that Central Intelligence Agency Director George Bush was appointed for political reasons.

Carter's comments came at a press conference here staged jointly by him and his latest overnight house guest, California Gov. Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown Jr.

The former Democratic primary rivals talked at length Thursday night and emerged this morning singing the praises of each other in talking with reporters after a brief walking tour of Carter's hometown.

In criticizing Kelley's three years at the helm of the FBI, Carter aligned himself with his running mate, Sen. Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota, who has used virtually the same words in characterizing Kelley's leadership.

However, Carter emphasized that he was not suggesting he would replace Kelley if he's elected in November.

"As far as the assessment of his ability to run the FBI, that's something that I have not made," Carter said, "and if I should be elected President, that would be a responsibility of mine..."

Kelley, appointed by President Nixon to succeed the late J. Edgar Hoover in 1973, said earlier this week he has no plans to resign in the wake of mounting criticism of bureau operations and will not submit a routine

letter of resignation if the administration changes in January.

Like Mondale, Carter said he was disturbed that illegal FBI break-ins continued until recently despite assurances from Kelley to a Senate investigating committee, of which Mondale is a member, that they had ended.

Asked later to elaborate, Carter said that, while there is no way to assure "complete control" of any agency from the top, an agency head should be held accountable for correcting errors after they are disclosed.

"To make a mistake, to have it revealed and to continue making the same mistake is almost unforgivable," he said.

As for Bush, Carter said it was a "serious mistake on some [campaign] staff member's part" to release an "intra-staff memorandum" that listed the CIA directorship as one of six "dumping grounds for unsuccessful candidates" from the Republican Party. Bush, the memo noted, was a defeated candidate for a Senate seat from Texas.

The memo, entitled "Support for Certain Statements in ABA speech," was handed by a campaign worker to a reporter before Carter delivered a speech Wednesday to the American Bar Association in Atlanta accusing the Republicans of being excessively political in their appointments. Although the memo was described at the time as an "addendum" to the speech, aides said later that the memo had been given out inadvertently.

Carter, who along with Mondale received a national security briefing here Thursday from Bush, said he had not seen the memo and had not discussed Bush's qualifications with his staff.

"As a matter of fact, I think a lot of

George Bush," said Carter, who praised Bush's national security analyses and responses to "some very tough questions I've posed."

Added Carter: "I think it was a mistake for an intra-staff memorandum that I have never seen to be distributed. It was also a mistake to allege that George Bush was appointed just because of political reasons." Bush also served as Republican national chairman in 1973-1974.

Asked if he thought Bush had established adequate control over the CIA, Carter said Bush had done a "good job in correcting defects" and "so far, at least, the commitments he has made to the [congressional] committees have been kept and his statements have been substantiated."

Although Brown took a back seat to Carter during the press conference today, he held his own with the tourists, as the two—Carter clad in sports clothes and Brown in a brown, checked suit and tie—ambled down Plains' one-block Main Street.

Brown let it be known in advance, however, that he wouldn't play softball, one of Carter's favorite pastimes here.

Carter said he asked Brown to campaign in California and elsewhere for the Democratic ticket this fall, noting that the 33-year-old Californian, who beat him in five late primaries, is "extremely popular, as I found to my disappointment." Brown said he was "willing and anxious" to take on the assignment.

Brown said there was a "very wide field of common agreement" between the two on his views about curbing growth and conserving energy sources. "I don't think there is any disagreement at all in that respect," added Carter.